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rightly filed or wrongly filed. But the Government came to the conclusion that if such claims were entertained there was no knowing where they would stop, and that they should not therefore undertake any liability."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"The fact is that the applicant preferred a claim immediately after the school building was burnt down, and the petition was pending before the district authorities and they disposed of the question summarily, and then the petitioner brought it to the notice of the Government. I therefore suggest that it is but fair that the Government should consider the question on its merits."

Panchayat Courts.

Depressed class representative in the South Village Panchayat Court, Coimbatore.

* 319 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that one Ranga Panoody, a member of the depressed classes, was duly elected as one of the members of the South Village Panchayat Court, Coimbatore town, during the month of July last and his name was subsequently gazetted ;

(b) if so, why he was not called upon until now to attend the meeting of the village panchayat court ;

(c) whether he was formally informed of his election either by quoting the gazette or otherwise ; and

(d) if the Government have no information with reference to clause (a), whether they will be pleased to call for the information ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) It is understood that the court has arranged to meet on fixed days in each week and to dispense with the formal notice in regard to each meeting and that in pursuance of this practice no notice was sent to the newly-elected member.

(c) The Revenue Divisional Officer has since informed the member of his election and the latter is now reported to be attending the court.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"With reference to clause (b) may I know why there was so much delay of about four or five months after the election of that Adi-Dravida was declared by the Revenue Divisional officer, and that too after referring the matter to the head of the administration?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"As will appear from clause (b) of the answer, the court had fixed certain days, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for meetings. The members of the court and the Divisional officer took it for granted that the newly elected member would have come to know that the court was meeting on such days. Mr. Veerian and other gentlemen who took an interest in the matter apparently found out that the gentleman had not received information about the meetings, and Mr. Veerian has drawn the attention of the Government to that fact, and the Government pointed out that a

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more business-like procedure must be followed, so that the newly elected member was told that the court was sitting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and he is now attending those meetings."

Police.

Crime in Karkal taluk.

* 320 Q.—Mr. K. RAGHUCHANDRA BALLAL: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether, owing to the large number of murders with firearms committed in the Karkal taluk during the last nine years and the small proportion of convictions obtained in such cases, the Government will see their way to adopt special steps by deputing special police officers for the said area?

A.—There have been no murders in the Karkal taluk since 1922. There is, consequently, no need for any special measures.

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether he is quite convinced that the answer given here on the paper is accurate throughout. I have information of a very alarming nature just to the opposite effect, namely, that since 1922 there have been twenty murders in this Karkal taluk."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Some such suggestion was contained in a letter which came to Government and therefore they asked the local authorities and the answer given is the result. I shall again ask the local officers with reference to the statement that has fallen from my hon. Friend."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I take it, Sir, that wherever there are large numbers of murders, say in a particular taluk, or district, that the hon. the Law Member will be pleased to take special measures to protect the people of such places?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The hon. Member is perhaps aware that I have had the honour of having certain conversations with him regarding his own locality. But if in any particular locality there are any alarming features, they will certainly be considered."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"May I know from whom the information was received that there have been no murders since 1922. We have been making enquiries and it is notorious that there have been several cases of murder."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The informant is the Collector and District Magistrate. He may be quite wrong. I will write to him again, seeing that two hon. Members of this House have assured me and have made themselves partly or wholly responsible for the statement that there are several murders that escaped the attention and action of the magistracy, and further enquiry will be made."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"The fact is, Sir, that many of these murders do not end in conviction at all." (Laughter.)